

USN St. Julien's Creek Annex

Chesapeake, Virginia
Superfund Program Site Fact Sheet

Type of Facility: Navy Base Federal Facility

Funding: Department of Defense

Lead Agency: United States Navy

Site Description and History

The St. Julien's Creek Annex (U.S. Navy) is located in southeastern Virginia at the confluence of St. Julien's Creek and the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River in the city of Chesapeake. The northern boundary of the annex is the boundary between the cities of Portsmouth and Chesapeake, Virginia. The Elizabeth River and St. Julien's Creek form the eastern and southern boundaries, respectively, of the annex. A residential section of Chesapeake City abuts the annex on the west. Norfolk Naval Shipyard is located less than one mile to the north. St. Julien's Creek Annex occupies approximately 490 acres, including 407 acres of land, 14 acres of marsh, and 69 acres of surface water.

The St. Julien's Creek Annex began operations in 1849 as an ordnance and material storage facility. In 1898, the facility was equipped for assembling ammunition. From 1898 to 1970, the facility was used to supply ammunition to the fleet in addition to loading, assembling, issuing, and receiving naval gun ammunition, and conducting experimental and test loading for new ammunition.

In 1969, St. Julien's Creek was disestablished under U.S. Department of Defense and was consolidated as an annex to the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Virginia. Ordnance operations at the facility were terminated in the 1970s.

In 1977, the annex was transferred to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. In 1995, it was transferred to Naval Base, Norfolk, and then it was transferred to Naval Station, Norfolk, in 1996. St. Julien's Creek Annex currently provides administrative offices, light industrial shops, and storage facilities for tenant naval commands. Currently, its primary mission is to provide a radar testing range (35 acres) and various administrative and warehousing structures.

Threats and Contaminants

Former operations at the facility that generated potentially hazardous substances include metal plating, degreasing, painting, operation of hydraulic equipment, vehicles and

locomotives, ordnance loading, ordnance testing, ordnance disassembly, ordnance destruction, pest control, maintenance of lead-acid batteries, and printing. Trash and garbage generated from the facility was disposed in on-site dumps. Wastes were typically disposed in low areas, which are wetlands. Beginning in the late 1930s, waste ordnance materials were disposed on site. On-site disposal and storage of waste created numerous sources of potential contamination, including landfills and an ordnance disposal (burning) area. Sources of potential contamination located on the facility include four landfills, an ordnance disposal area, an ordnance burn pit, a hazardous waste disposal area, a waste storage area, and a pesticide disposal area. These sources were noted because of their potential to release to the surface water surrounding the facility, i.e., Blows Creek, St. Julien's Creek, and the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River provides habitat for numerous species that are identified as threatened or endangered under federal or state legislation. In addition, wetlands are associated with the river. Both St. Julien's Creek and the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River are used for recreational fishing.

Current Site Status

This site was proposed as an NPL site on February 4, 2000. The site was formally added to the list in the July 27, 2000, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds. A soil and background study was conducted in 2001. The objective was to establish background concentrations of metals, pesticides, and PAHs in surface and subsurface soil, and groundwater for use in the comparison of site data. Background levels are due to naturally occurring or anthropogenic sources. A Site Screening Assessment (SSA) was finalized in 2002. This SSA covered eight sites and 12 areas of concern. This SSA recommended further investigation at five of the sites/AOCs to determine if a release of contaminants have occurred. A Remedial Investigation was completed for Sites 3, 4, 5 and 6 in 2002 and included human health and ecological risk assessments. Site 6 has undergone a non-time critical removal action and is projected for closeout during 2003.

Community Relations and Concerns

A federal facility may provide their own community relations program; however, it must be consistent with CERCLA, the National Contingency Plan, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policies. VDEQ staff members review and comment on documents such as Community Relations Plans, fact sheets, slide shows, etc. They also participate in Restoration Advisory Board and public meetings, as requested, visit site locations, and provide additional community relations support, as needed.

VDEQ Representative	Information Repository
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